SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROXIMITY SEARCHING POSITION INFORMATION USING A PROXIMITY PARAMETER

ABSTRACT

A computer implemented proximity searcher searches position field information (representing geographical positions) stored in database records, to identify database positions falling within a predetermined search range of a position of interest. The proximity searcher avoids time consuming conventional techniques such as great circle calculations to thereby reduce the computational burden associated with proximity searching, thus achieving time efficient proximity searches to identify candidate geographical positions that are near the position of interest. The proximity searcher identifies the candidate geographical positions within a search range, specified as a proximity parameter, of the position of interest. The proximity parameter and the position field information can have incompatible formats. In one configuration, the proximity searcher resides on a server coupled to a network and responds to user queries provided by, for example, client computers also coupled to the network.

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